

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7271
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2246

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, PEPR, GW, GE, IR
SUBJ: IRANIANS REDUCE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN EAST GERMANY

1. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 3, MFA REDUCED DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN BY RECALLING ITS AMBASSADOR AND THE REST OF THE EMBASSY STAFF AND LEAVING THE EMBASSY IN THE CARE OF A THIRD SECRETARY, WHO IS TO SERVE AS "CHARGE DES AFFAIRES" (NOT CHARGE D'AFFAIRES) AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE CARETAKER MFA EXPLAINED IN A RELEASE TO THE PRESS NEXT DAY THAT THIS MEASURE HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT PROVIDED APPROPRIATE PROTECTION AGAINST THE VANDALS WHO HAD DAMAGED THE EMBASSY BUILDING IN AN ANTI-IRANIAN DEMONSTRATION A FEW DAYS BEFORE AND LOCKED UP IRANIAN DIPLOMATS. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, EAST GERMAN EXPULSION OF THE 30 OR SO CULPRITS INVOLVED WAS
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SEEN AS EVADING ITS OBLIGATION TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE AND ENCOURAGING FURTHER ATTACKS OF THIS SORT ON THE IRANIAN EMBASSY.

2. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ESHRAGHI CONFIRMED THE SERIES OF EVENTS TO POLCOUNS MARCH 5. HE SAID EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN IN TO SEE HIM MARCH 4 AND EXPRESSEEREGET FOR WHAT

HAD BEEN DONE, GIVING WHAT IRANIANS CONSIDER A LAME EXPLANATION FOR IT ALL. IRANIANS ARE ESPECIALLY OUTRAGED, HE SAID, BY THE DEPORTATION WITHOUT LEGAL PUNISHMENT WHICH IRANIANS DO NOT CONSIDER NORMAL OR APPROPRIATE. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION HE SAID THE WHOLE RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH EAST GERMANY IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND, WHILE NO MOVES HAVE SO FAR BEEN TAKEN IN THE COMMERCIAL AREA, HE CERTAINLY WOULD EXPECT NO RPT NO EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

3. ESHRAGHI NOTED THAT EAST GERMAN MISSION REMAINS AS IT WAS, AND HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD RECIPROCATATE BY REDUCING IN ANY WAY. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION, HE SAID GOI HAS MADE NO SPECIALS REQUIREMENTS OF THE EAST GERMANS BUT IS WAITING TO SEE IF THEY COME UP WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SITUATION. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHY GOI CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR RESPONSE IN EAST GERMANY'S CASE AS OPPOSED TO LESS OFFICIAL COMMERCIAL SANCTIONS IN CASES OF DANISH AND ITALIAN CASES RECENTLY, BUT OF COURSE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN MORE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND PERHAPS IRAN IS GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF THE REPETITION OF SUCH INSTANCES.

4. COMMENT: IRANIAN REACTION IN THIS CASE AS IN OTHERS RECENTLY (BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH KENYA, AS WELL AS DANISH AND ITALIAN CASES MENTIONED ABOVE AND A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE APPLIED TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH BBC COVERAGE) STRIKES US--AS IT WILL OTHERS--AS PRETTY TOUCHY. UP TO NOW, IRANIANS HAVE TALKED TOUGH BUT CLIMBED DOWN RATHER QUICKLY ONCE CONCILIATORY EXPLANATIONS WERE OFFERED. IF THEY VALUE EAST GERMAN RELATIONSHIP AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE APPEARED TO UP TO NOW, WE MIGHT EXPECT SIMILAR PATTERN. HOWEVER, THE SHAH IS FACED BY PROBLEM OF CONTINUING INVASIONS OR IRANIAN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES IN ONE COUNTRY AFTER ANOTHER AND UNDOUBTEDLY IS SEEKING ONE OR TWO GOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO SET AN EXAMPLE THAT WILL DETER OTHER GOVERNMENTS FROM BEING SO PERMISSIVE. HE MIGHT JUST PICK EAST GERMANY AS SUCH A CASE.

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